

10/537294  
JC17 Rec'd PCT/PTO 02 JUN 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A ventilator unit for ventilating the inside of a garment such as a pressure suit or the like with an ambient fluid, the unit being characterized by the fact that it comprises:

    a first leaktight case (1) having at least one inlet opening (2) suitable for sucking in said fluid, and an outlet opening (3), and also a first electrical connection passage (4);

    a filter cartridge (5);

    means (6) for mounting the filter cartridge (5) in association with the inlet opening (2) of the first case (1);

    an impeller (7) having at least one inlet port (8) for sucking in said fluid contained in said first case (1), and an outlet orifice (9) for delivering said sucked-in fluid, said impeller (7) having a drive motor (10) controllable via a power supply input (11);

    means (12) for mounting said impeller (7) in the inside (13) of the first case (1);

    a duct (14) for connecting the outlet orifice (9) of the impeller (7) to the outside (15) of the first case (1), said duct (14) passing in leaktight manner through the outlet opening (3) of the first case (1);

    a second case (20);

    a second electrical connection passage (21) made through the wall (49) of said second case (20);

a source (23) suitable for delivering electrical energy to an output terminal (24), said source (23) being disposed in the inside (25) of the second case (20);

an electronic control circuit (26);

means (27) for associating the first and second cases (1, 20) in such a manner that the first and second electrical connection passages (4, 21) form a single leakproof third electrical connection passage (28);

a flow meter (29) disposed inside the duct (14), said flow meter having an outlet (30) suitable for delivering an electrical signal representative of the flow rate of fluid passing along the duct (14);

a first electrical connector (31) for connecting the output (30) of the flow meter (29) to a first input (32) of the electronic control circuit (26);

a second electrical connector (33) for connecting a first control output (34) of the electronic control circuit (26) to the control input (11) of the motor (10) for driving the impeller; and

a third electrical connector (35) for connecting the electrical energy source (23) to a power supply input (36) of the electronic control circuit (26);

said electronic control circuit (26) further including an output (37) suitable for delivering a first alarm signal when the level of electrical energy delivered by said source (23) drops below a determined threshold value.

2. (original) A ventilator unit according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that said electronic control circuit (26) is located inside the second case (20).

3. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, characterized by the fact that it further comprises:

a switch (40) mounted in leaktight manner through the wall (41) of the first case (1) so that its control element (42) is accessible from the outside (15) of the first case (1) and its electrical control terminals (43) are situated in the inside (13) of the first case (1); and

a fourth electrical connector (44) for connecting the electrical control terminals (43) of said switch (40) to a control input (45) of the electronic control circuit (26).

4. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to claim 2 ~~or claim 3~~, characterized by the fact that it includes an electrical connection pin (22) mounted in leaktight manner through the wall (49) of the second case (20), the output terminals (46) thereof being situated in the inside (25) of said second case (20) and being connected respectively to an energy feed input (47) of said energy source (23) and to a control input (48) of the electronic control circuit (26).

5. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that it comprises:

a converter (50) controllable from a control input (51), said converter being suitable for transforming an electrical signal into a sound signal; and

a fifth electrical connector (52) for connecting the control terminal (51) of the converter (50) to that output (37) of the electronic control circuit that is suitable for delivering said first alarm signal.

6. (original) A ventilator unit according to claim 5, characterized by the fact that said converter (50) is situated in said duct (14).

7. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, characterized by the fact that said converter (50) is constituted by at least one of the following elements: a buzzer, a loudspeaker.

8. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that said filter cartridge (5) is constituted:

by a filter pellet (60) for filtering first particles of a given size, said pellet (60) covering said inlet opening (2) of the first case (1) in full; and

a cap (61) covering said pellet (60) in such a manner that the pellet is situated between the cap and the inlet opening (2) of the first case, said cap including filter orifices (62) for filtering second particles of a size greater than the size of the first particles.

9. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized by the fact that it includes means (18) for making a fluid connection between the end (19) of said duct (14) situated outside said first case (1) with an inlet for feeding the inside of said garment with fluid.

10. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 6, characterized by the fact that it includes a flow regulator circuit suitable for delivering a second alarm signal when the fluid flow rate in the duct (14) varies by a determined quantity about a given nominal flow rate value.

11. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to ~~claims 6 and~~ claim 10, characterized by the fact that it

includes means for applying said second alarm signal to the control terminal (51) of said converter (50).

12. (currently amended) A ventilator unit according to claim 10 ~~or claim 11~~, characterized by the fact that said flow rate regulator circuit is disposed in said first case (1).

13. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 2, characterized by the fact that it further comprises:

a switch (40) mounted in leaktight manner through the wall (41) of the first case (1) so that its control element (42) is accessible from the outside (15) of the first case (1) and its electrical control terminals (43) are situated in the inside (13) of the first case (1); and

a fourth electrical connector (44) for connecting the electrical control terminals (43) of said switch (40) to a control input (45) of the electronic control circuit (26).

14. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 3, characterized by the fact that it includes an electrical connection pin (22) mounted in leaktight manner through the wall (49) of the second case (20), the output terminals (46) thereof being situated in the inside (25) of said second case (20) and being connected respectively to an energy feed input (47) of said energy source (23) and to a control input (48) of the electronic control circuit (26).

15. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 13, characterized by the fact that it includes an electrical connection pin (22) mounted in leaktight manner through the wall (49) of the second case (20), the output terminals (46) thereof being situated in the inside (25) of said second case (20) and being connected respectively to an energy feed input

(47) of said energy source (23) and to a control input (48) of the electronic control circuit (26).

16. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 6, characterized by the fact that said converter (50) is constituted by at least one of the following elements: a buzzer, a loudspeaker.

17. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that it includes a flow regulator circuit suitable for delivering a second alarm signal when the fluid flow rate in the duct (14) varies by a determined quantity about a given nominal flow rate value.

18. (new) A ventilator unit according to claim 11, characterized by the fact that said flow rate regulator circuit is disposed in said first case (1).